

POINT PAPER

SUBJECT: OPERATION NEW LIFE, First U.S. Army Family Programs, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide information on the development of OPERATION NEW LIFE and how it will assist military families and family members of mobilized Soldiers displaced by a natural disaster or other events that may occur.

2. **BACKGROUND:**

a. In May 2005, Mrs. Beverly Honoré, First U.S. Army Senior Spouse, launched a Family Readiness Program video teleconference (VTC) with Army National Guard and Army Reserve family care providers to hear first hand how families are handling deployment and what care providers are doing to assist them. This new initiative (the first of its kind) has been a real success. The participation level of the Family Readiness VTC has grown from 5 units to 13 units within 3 months. The next Family Readiness VTC is scheduled 18 November 2005.

b. Since Hurricane Katrina, Mrs. Honoré conducted a teleconference with Camp Shelby Family Readiness Group (FRG) leaders. The information shared by Camp Shelby FRG included what is being accomplished to assist displaced families. Camp Shelby FRG requested First U.S. Army's support for six families (two families with homes totally destroyed and four families with homes in need of extreme repairs). A final number of displaced families has not yet been identified. Mrs. Honoré's involvement demonstrates how important families are to this command. Her goal is to have displaced military families tracked from the day a problem is identified until the quality of life has been reestablished.

c. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Mrs. Honoré has been personally involved and is working diligently to ensure a notification process is in place regarding the status of each military family affected. Specifically, what happens after families are identified and how we will ensure these families are on the right track to reestablishing their quality of life. We need to develop a program to track every family and have a centralized location to access their information. Many military families will need to rebuild their lives and even relocate to another state. The OPERATION NEW LIFE tracking mechanism needs to be coordinated through the Multi-Component Family Support Network in order to pull every available resource together. Through OPERATION NEW LIFE, families will be able to obtain information to help acquire a new perspective regarding family needs and get linked into community resources that will help to improve current situations.

3. **FACTS:**

a. First U.S. Army Family Program is connected to the Active Duty, National Guard, and Army Reserve Family Programs. OPERATION NEW LIFE will be maintained and monitored through First U.S. Army Family Programs. Feedback will be posted on the website, status of families will be discussed during Interagency Assistance Committee meetings, and information will be shared among all servicing agents.

b. Community resources such as the Soldier-Civilian Support Program, The American Red Cross, United Services Organizations (USO), The American Legion, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Military One Source, Chaplains, Legal Assistance, Family Readiness Groups, and many other groups and organizations will be critical to the success of this initiative.

**OPERATION NEW LIFE
QUARTERLY REPORT FORM**

State_____ **Date**_____

Name of Program Director_____

Title_____ **Phone number**_____

Email address_____

Name of service member _____

Current location (in theater or mobilization station)

Name of spouse_____

Anytime telephone number _____

Name and age of other family members _____

Current status_____

Services needed_____

Are there any services that cannot be offered? _____

Do you feel your office has provided every service within your authority?

Does the family need a service that is life threatening and your office cannot provide? If yes, please explain.

Last ISFAC meeting attended _____

KEY PLAYERS

INTERSERVICE FAMILY ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE

- **First U.S. Army Family Programs**
- **Army Community Service Centers**
- **Army National Guard**
- **Army Reserve**
- **USO**
- **Red Cross**
- **Veterans Administration**
- **American Legion**
- **Military One Source**
- **Family Readiness Groups**
- **Legal Assistance**
- **Chaplain**
- **Soldier-Civilian Support Program**